

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 594

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Shelley T. Gardner,
president of the Tennessee District Public
Defenders Conference.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary efforts and diligent service to their fellow citizens, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Shelley T. Gardner, 2022-2023 president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference (TDPDC), who has rendered sterling service during her presidential term; and

WHEREAS, as TDPDC president, Mrs. Gardner has been the principal executive officer for supervising and controlling the business and affairs of the Conference while also assisting the Conference in advising the General Assembly regarding legislation to improve the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Shelley Gardner has concurrently served as the district public defender for the 15th Judicial District, encompassing Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson counties, and has served the citizens of that district with distinction since her appointment by Governor Bill Haslam in November 2018 and subsequent election in August 2020; and

WHEREAS, a native of Wilson County, Mrs. Gardner is a graduate of Lebanon High School, Cumberland University, and Nashville School of Law; she served as assistant district public defender for the 15th Judicial District for sixteen years, from July 2002 to October 2018, before assuming her current role; and

WHEREAS, a respected leader in her field, Mrs. Gardner is a member of the Tennessee 15th District Wilson County Bar Association and the 15th Judicial District Drug Court, from which she received the Judge J.O. Bond Memorial Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, Shelley Gardner is also devoted to serving her community through her involvement with Lebanon Breakfast Rotary Club, Wilson County CASA, and Wilson ONE, all of which she has served as president; a graduate of Leadership Wilson, she sits on the board of the Wilson County Fair and has been active with the Lebanon/Wilson County Chamber of Commerce and Lebanon First United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, often duly honored for her service, she was named a Woman of Wilson in 2015 and has received the CASA Community Champion Award, the Woman of Excellence Award, and the Cedar Tree Award; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Mrs. Gardner is most grateful for the love of her husband of twenty-one years, Joe Gardner, and their sons, Jace and Jonah; and

WHEREAS, Shelley Gardner epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Mrs. Gardner for her dedication to serving the people of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Shelley T. Gardner, 2022-2023 president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, as her exemplary term comes to a close, extending our best wishes for her continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.